

1961

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

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him a headache that a whole crate of aspirin wouldn't cure.

Obviously the bearded Cuban premier didn't plan for his proposal to turn out the way it has and boomerang against him. The swap was supposed to put President Kennedy behind the eight ball in Castro's continuing propaganda battle against the United States and "Yankee imperialists."

Argentina is an example of how Castro's machinery-for-a-human life thinking is backfiring against him.

The Castro proposal has been bitterly denounced almost unanimously in Buenos Aires, where President Arturo Frondizi has shown a marked reluctance to take a firm stand against Castro's Communist regime.

In a front-page editorial, the influential Correo de la Tarde newspaper called the Castro plan a barbarity.

"For human dignity, if not for political or ideological reasons, Fidel Castro's terror should be driven from the continent," the stinging editorial declared.

"If any further proof were needed of his low estate, of his cruelty, it has been furnished now by Castro. One thousand Cubans are worth only 500 tractors to the government now ruling in the island."

The editorial also criticized President Frondizi for not taking stronger action on the Cuban problem.

Correo de la Tarde also rounded up this sampling of opinion in the Argentine capital:

Jorge W. Ferreira, secretary of the majority group of congressmen in President Frondizi's Radical Intransigent Civic Union party, termed the exchange "inadmissible." He added that "the human rights consecrated by the United Nations charter appear to be irreconcilable with the Cuban Government's offer."

Congressman Carlos Adrogué of the opposition Radical Civic Union Party of the people declared that "what is happening in Cuba shows contempt for freedom and the dignity of the human person."

A labor union leader, Juan Carlos Brunetti, said Castro's proposal "shows the infamy of the Communist regime and will open the eyes of those who believe in freedom."

So it is in Argentina. Reaction is similar throughout Latin America. Even in Brazil, where President Janio Quadros is holding firm with Castro, sentiment against the Castro dictatorship is being fanned by the Brazilian press.

[From the Washington Post, May 26, 1961]  
LATINS CRITICAL OF CASTRO'S PW-TRACTOR SWAP

Latin American editorial reaction to Fidel Castro's "Tractors for Prisoners" exchange has been generally critical. Here are some examples:

Argentina: La Capital, Rosario (moderately liberal; a leading provincial daily): "The incredible proposition has again shaken the free world with its brutality and utilitarianism, free of any human feeling."

Brazil: Diario Carioca, Rio de Janeiro (liberal; a leading daily): "The ransom operation now being negotiated in Washington reveals in all its hideousness the inhuman nature of the Cuban revolution."

Colombia: El Espectador, Bogotá (strongly liberal; country's second largest circulation): "Even though the exchange has been suggested in terms that shame humanity, we believe that it should be accepted."

Costa Rica: La Republica, San José (Costa Rica's leading liberal daily): "Fidel Castro committed the mistake of aiming at a target that brought into action the most notable characteristic of the North American people, generosity. This has always been the error of the Communists, they work on numbers and figures and figures that they can't reach."

Ecuador: El Telegrafo, Guayaquil (liberal; influential): "Even though this is a filthy

blackmail I believe the sinoids should be given the machines they want because it might be that tomorrow they would want to trade Roa for a still."

Guatemala: El Imparcial, Guatemala City (liberal and often critical of United States; a leading daily): "The totalitarian cynicism has exceeded all limits with two facts that revolt the conscience of all decent men: the first is the sordid valuation of human life made by Castro in offering to trade the prisoners for tractors \* \* \* the mockery is debasing to the Cuban people and to the one who made it."

Nicaragua: La Prensa, Managua (moderately conservative, a leading daily): "It is awful to know that in this America of ours, so far removed in time and space from the Saracen coast, first to emancipate the slaves and first to claim all the freedoms, slavery has now established itself at a level much more materialistic and commercial than that known by the Babylonians, Assyrians, Phoenicians, Greeks or Romans."

Panama: El Pals, Panama City (moderately liberal, a leading daily): "No one with a particle of respect for his own nationality could think of selling his countrymen for tools. It is paradoxical that the 'aggressors' should be the ones outdoing themselves to collect funds with which to save the lives of the Cuban citizens who are persecuted in their own country."

Peru: Ultima Hora (a leading daily, moderately conservative): "The proposal shows the false apostle in his true light. It shows him to be the vilest huckster among the agents of Soviet imperialism. As if it were not enough that he has tried to sell his country to the Moscow hierarchs, he now makes his cynical offer to trade patriots for tractors."

Uruguay: El Plata, Montevideo (Blanco Party organ, conservative, a leading daily): "One thing should have become clear \* \* \* the Fidel Castro regime has reached a degree of degeneracy and brutality that revolts human understanding."

Venezuela: El Mundo, Caracas (leftist liberal, often critical of United States): "With this offer to trade men for trucks (sic), in addition to the policy of the firing squad, Fidel Castro has enthroned anti-humanism in America." (Note: a direct slap at Fidel's claim of "humanismo" for his revolution.)

In Miami, meanwhile, 10 paroled Cuban invaders, scheduled to return to Havana today, still lacked a firm commitment on the tractors-for-prisoners exchange plan.

Unconfirmed reports circulated that the prisoners may seek an extension of their 1-week parole in the United States, United Press International reported. But the prisoners, who have pledged to return, had no comment.

The fund-raising committee, which is headed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, labor leader Walter Reuther and Milton Eisenhower, planned to send several representatives with the prisoners to obtain precise technical information from Castro about the types of equipment he wants.

## Tractors for Prisoners

## EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. DANTE B. FASCELL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 29, 1961

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, while there has been some criticism in the United States over Fidel Castro's tractors for prisoners exchange, it is now becoming apparent that Fidel Castro's disdain for human life has aroused bitter resentment and criticism throughout Latin America. It would seem that this latest blunder of his will go a long way in neutralizing some of the sympathy which he had obtained as a symbol in some Latin countries. This Latin revulsion to Castro is certainly timely and necessary. The incident serves to dramatically demonstrate to the Latins that Castro is not the symbol of the revolution they seek; that the American revolution is the true revolution, and that under our system they can achieve the social and political freedoms for which they strive.

I commend the following articles to my colleagues as examples of the new trend which Castro has started among the Latins:

[From the News, May 24, 1961]

TRACTOR TRADE STIRS LATINS

(By Hal Henson)

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro's tractors-for-prisoners barter deal appears to be causing